

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A control system coupled externally to a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal having a status, the control system comprising, in combination:

an actuator that can be selectively actuated by a human;

a controller receiving an actuation signal in response to actuation of the actuator;

at a routine performed by the controller for (i) determining, based at least on the actuation signal and the status of the subscriber terminal, an action to be taken by the subscriber terminal, (ii) generating a directive indicative of the action, and (iii) sending the directive to the subscriber terminal, whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the action in response to the directive;

wherein, if the status is a first status, then the controller determines a first action to be taken by the subscriber terminal, generates a first directive indicative of the first action, and sends the first directive to the subscriber terminal;

wherein, if the status is a second status, then the controller determines a second action to be taken by the subscriber terminal, generates a second directive indicative of the first action, and sends the second directive to the subscriber terminal; and

wherein the first status is different than the second status, the first action is different than the second action, and the first directive is different than the second directive.

Claim 2 (original): The control system of claim 1, further comprising:

a microphone for receiving audio signals to be provided to the subscriber terminal, whereby the audio signals may comprise speech signals.

Claim 3 (original): The control system of claim 1, further comprising:

an audio output source for providing audio signals from the subscriber terminal to a speaker, to be heard by a human.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The control system of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a single button that can be actuated by the human.

Claim 5 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a single rotary dial.

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Claim 6 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein:

the controller comprises a processor, a memory, and a set of machine language instructions stored in the memory and executable by the processor; and
the machine language instructions define the routine.

Claim 7 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein the subscriber terminal defines a plurality of functions and wherein the action comprises the subscriber terminal carrying out one or more of those functions.

Claim 8 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and idle, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal dialing one or more digits suitable for establishing a dial-up connection to a voice-activated-dialing platform,

whereby, once the subscriber terminal is connected to the voice-activated-dialing

platform, a human may speak into a microphone so as to provide speech signals that may be recognized and acted upon by the voice-activated-dialing platform.

Claim 9 (original): The control system of claim 8, wherein the one or more digits are selected from the group consisting of (i) a feature code and (ii) a telephone number.

Claim 10 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal terminating the call.

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Claim 11 (original): The control system of claim 10, wherein the controller determines the action in response to, in combination, (i) the subscriber terminal being on and engaged in a call and (ii) the actuation signal reflecting that the actuator was actuated for at least a predetermined duration.

Claim 12 (original): The control system of claim 11, wherein the predetermined duration is 1.5 seconds.

Claim 13 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and receiving an incoming call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal connecting to the call.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A control system coupled externally to a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal having a status, the control system comprising, in combination:

an actuator that can be selectively actuated by a human;

a controller receiving an actuation signal in response to actuation of the actuator;

a routine performed by the controller for (i) determining, based at least on the actuation signal and the status of the subscriber terminal, an action to be taken by the subscriber terminal, (ii) generating a directive indicative of the action, and (iii) sending the directive to the subscriber terminal,

whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the action in response to the directive;

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~~The control system of claim 1,~~ wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call placed via a voice-activated-dialing platform, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal sending one or more digits to the voice-activated-dialing platform suitable for instructing the voice-activated-dialing platform to disconnect the call but to retain a connection between the voice-activated-dialing platform and the subscriber terminal, whereby another call may then be placed from the subscriber terminal via the voice-activated dialing platform.

Claim 15 (original): The control system of claim 1, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for controlling communications of a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal having a status, the method comprising, in combination:

receiving an indication of the status of the subscriber terminal;

receiving an actuation signal provided in response to a human actuating an actuator;

if the status is a first status, then, in response to the indication of status and the actuation signal, determining a[[n]] first action to be taken by the subscriber terminal; and sending a first

directive to the subscriber terminal indicating the first action to be taken, whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the first action;

if the status is a second status, then, in response to the indication of status and the actuation signal, determining a second action to be taken by the subscriber terminal; and sending a second directive to the subscriber terminal indicating the second action to be taken, whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the second action;

wherein the first status is different than the second status, the first action is different than the second action, and the first directive is different than the second directive.

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Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and idle, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal dialing one or more digits suitable for establishing a dial-up connection to a voice-activated dialing platform.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the one or more digits are selected from the group consisting of (i) a feature code and (ii) a telephone number.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal terminating the call.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19, wherein determining the action comprises determining the action based at least in part on a combination of (i) the subscriber terminal being on and engaged in a call and (ii) the actuation signal reflecting that the actuator was actuated for at least a predetermined duration.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein the predetermined duration is 1.5 seconds.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and receiving an incoming call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal connecting to the call.

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Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for controlling communications of a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal having a status, the method comprising, in combination:

receiving an indication of the status of the subscriber terminal;

receiving an actuation signal provided in response to a human actuating an actuator;

in response to the indication of status and the actuation signal, determining an action to be taken by the subscriber terminal; and

sending a directive to the subscriber terminal indicating the action to be taken,

whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the action

~~The method of claim 16,~~ wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call placed via a voice-activated-dialing platform, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal sending one or more digits to the voice-activated-dialing platform suitable for instructing the voice-activated-dialing platform to disconnect the call but to retain a connection between the voice-activated-dialing platform and the subscriber terminal, whereby another call may then be placed from the subscriber terminal via the voice-activated dialing platform.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

Claim 25 (canceled)

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Claim 26 (new): The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call placed via a voice-activated-dialing platform, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal sending one or more digits to the voice-activated-dialing platform suitable for instructing the voice-activated-dialing platform to disconnect the call but to retain a connection between the voice-activated-dialing platform and the subscriber terminal, whereby another call may then be placed from the subscriber terminal via the voice-activated dialing platform.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call placed via a voice-activated-dialing platform, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal sending one or more digits to the voice-activated-dialing platform suitable for instructing the voice-activated-dialing platform to disconnect the call but to retain a connection between the voice-activated-dialing platform and the subscriber terminal, whereby another call may then be placed from the subscriber terminal via the voice-activated dialing platform.
